



THE TRACKWALKER

Before you begin your journey, you will need:

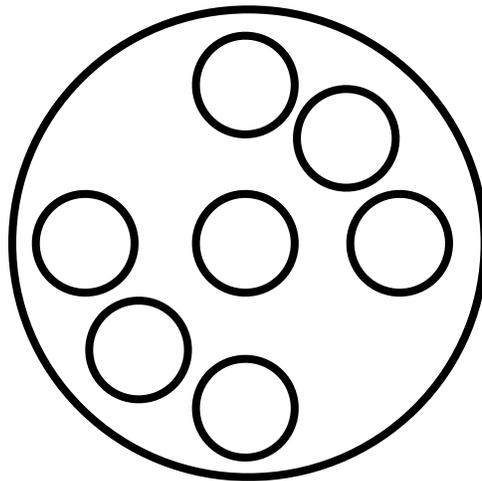
- Backpack with:
 - This worksheet
 - Pen or pencil
 - Snacks
 - Water
 - First Aid kit
 - Cell phone

A Trackwalker was a railroad employee whose job entailed walking along 5 miles of track daily looking for any issues along the rail line and fixing them as they appeared. This included repairing damaged mechanical features, replacing rotten railroad ties, clearing vegetation away from the tracks, maintaining bridges and repairing signal lights. They were only allowed to call for assistance from other employees for major projects, such as destroyed bridges or severely damaged tracks.

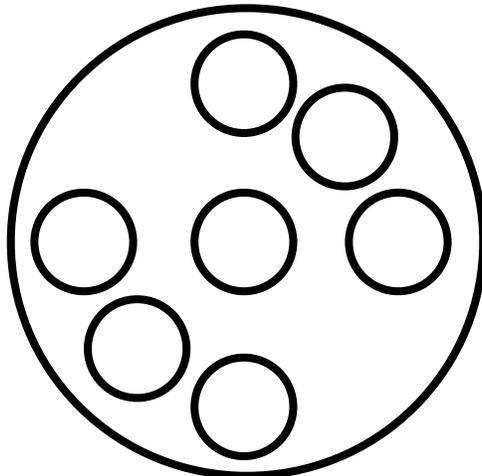
To begin your journey, from the parking lot walk right on the trail towards the large building adjacent to the trail. Find the old railroad track located near the bridge, and inspect it (by staying on the trail behind the bridge railing!). Draw what you see below, and write how the tracks could be improved:

After you've made your assessment of the railroad track, head back towards the parking lot, but continue on the trail south by crossing the road (look out for cars!). After you cross the road, take a look at the large Electric Block Signal. Read the sign attached to the post, then figure out the signals needed for the following situations. Fill in the dots on the diagrams to show the correct display:

A train begins leaving the Graystone Station carrying a fresh supply of local milk at 10:20 a.m., heading south on the tracks at 20 mph. As the Trackwalker on duty for the morning, you're responsible for making sure the tracks are in good repair and safe for trains to use. Unfortunately a big thunderstorm rolled through last night and you find that a large tree has fallen across the tracks just south of Hunter Mill Road. You must immediately alert the train to stop! Which signal should be displayed on this Block Signal?



Phew! The train received the signal in time and was able to come safely to a stop! A team of railroad workers join you on the tracks, and you're able to successfully chop up and remove the tree from the tracks. Because you haven't been able to walk the entire span of your 5-mile territory, you're not sure whether or not there might be more trees across the tracks. Which signal should now be displayed to alert the train to continue cautiously?



The train continues cautiously and luckily there were no more trees across the track. Great job, Trackwalker!

In case of emergency, Trackwalkers would carry kits with them. These kits included signal flags and track torpedoes, which were used when a major problem was found (such as a bridge that was destroyed). The track torpedoes were placed on the rails a certain distance before the problem on the line. The torpedo would explode when the oncoming train ran over it, and the loud bang would warn the engineer to stop the train. The Trackwalkers would carry this and several pounds of hand tools and fuses with them every day. What other items would you carry with you to help you throughout the day? Draw them in your satchel below!



After you've prepared your satchel with your emergency kit and other items you'd need for the day, continue your hike down the trail!



Soon you'll come across a white post with black numbers. These signals, with numbers painted on each side facing the trail, were used to tell the train engineer where they were on the trail. Facing the marker, the mileage on the right side indicates the distance to Sunbury, Pennsylvania and on the left side, the distance to the former site of the railroad's Calvert Street Station in Baltimore.

You notice that there is track that requires some minor repairs (a railroad tie has come loose). According to your train schedule, there is a train heading south from Freeland, headed towards Ashland. You need to communicate this information to the engineer!

How many miles away from Sunbury are you? _____

How many miles away from Baltimore are you? _____

You've alerted the engineer to the problem area, and you quickly get to work repairing the track. After you finish, keep heading down the trail!



CHOO CHOO! In the distance, you hear a train coming! This must mean the train from Freeland is now approaching Wilson Road. How do you know that? Well, located every 1,200 feet from a road crossing stand these large white posts with a prominent black "W." These Whistle Posts were installed to instruct train engineers to repeatedly sound a whistle (on steam locomotives) or air horn (on diesel-electric locomotives) as they approached a road crossing. The whistle pattern was typically two long notes, followed by a short note and another long note.

As you continue your hike, assess other conditions of the trail. Fill out the log below as you continue your hike to Wilson Road, at which point you will turn around and head back to the parking lot. Perhaps you can add more things you may have missed on the hike out!

TRACKWALKER _____'S LOG
(your name here!)

Today's Date: _____ Time: _____ Weather: _____

Trail Conditions: _____

Trail Corridor (vegetation): _____

Whistle Post Conditions: _____

Mile Marker Conditions: _____

Gate Conditions: _____

Bridge Conditions: _____

Other Notes: _____

Congratulations, Trackwalker! You had a very successful day today, keeping everyone on the railroad safe. Be sure to stamp your passport with the stamp found in the box on the bulletin board back near the White Hall parking lot! The code to open the lock on the box is 1854.

